

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND the claims in accordance with the following:

Claims 1-23 (CANCELLED)

24. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) At least one computer readable storage medium storing instructions that when executed cause a processor to perform a method comprising:

receiving possession specifiers, each specifying ~~a possessed merchandise that one of a plurality of customers possesses~~ merchandise possession information of customers in relation to merchandise, transmitted from the customers via a network, the possession specifiers including a first kind specifier, each specifying a first merchandise the customer possesses, a second kind specifier, each specifying a second merchandise the customer does not possess,

a third kind specifier, each specifying a third merchandise the customer has already purchased,

a fourth kind specifier, each specifying a fourth merchandise the customer does not need to possess any more but the customer still possesses,

a fifth kind specifier, each specifying a fifth merchandise the customer does not need to possess that the customer has purchased;

~~maintaining first records, each concerning the possessed merchandise that at least one~~ ~~of the customers possesses, based on the possession specifiers;~~

~~receiving identifying~~ unwanted merchandise specifiers, each specifying an unwanted merchandise any of the customers does not want any more, ~~transmitted from any of the~~ ~~customers via the network~~ based upon the first through fifth kind specifiers;

~~updating at least one of the first records concerned with the unwanted merchandise~~ specifiers;

~~consolidating second records concerned with unwanted merchandise, based upon the~~

unwanted merchandise specifiers; and
presenting a result of said consolidating to potential buyers.

25. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A selling-range constituting merchandise management apparatus, comprising:

first reception means for receiving possession specifiers, each specifying ~~a possessed merchandise that one of a plurality of customers possesses~~merchandise possession information of customers in relation to merchandise, transmitted from the customers via a network, the possession specifiers including

a first kind specifier, each specifying a first merchandise the customer possesses,
a second kind specifier, each specifying a second merchandise the customer
does not possess,

a third kind specifier, each specifying a third merchandise the customer has
already purchased,

a fourth kind specifier, each specifying a fourth merchandise the customer does
not need to possess any more but the customer still possesses,

a fifth kind specifier, each specifying a fifth merchandise the customer does not
need to possess that the customer has purchased;

~~maintenance means for maintaining first records, each concerning the possessed merchandise the customers possess based on the possession specifiers;~~

~~second reception means for receiving identifying unwanted merchandise specifiers, each specifying an unwanted merchandise any of the customers does not want any more, based upon the first through fifth kind specifiers transmitted from any of the customers via the network, said maintenance means updating at least one of the first records concerned with the unwanted merchandise specifiers; and~~

presentation means for consolidating ~~second~~ records concerned with unwanted merchandise ~~by attribute~~based upon the unwanted merchandise specifiers and presenting a result of the consolidating to potential buyers.

26. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A set of computer readable data signals representing a program for causing a computer:

to receive possession specifiers, each specifying ~~a merchandise each of the plurality of said customers possesses~~merchandise possession information of customers in relation to

merchandise, transmitted from each of said customers via a network, the possession specifiers including

a first kind specifier, each specifying a first merchandise the customer possesses,
a second kind specifier, each specifying a second merchandise the customer does not possess,

a third kind specifier, each specifying a third merchandise the customer has already purchased,

a fourth kind specifier, each specifying a fourth merchandise the customer does not need to possess any more but the customer still possesses,

a fifth kind specifier, each specifying a fifth merchandise the customer does not need to possess that the customer has purchased;

~~to maintain records each in concern with the merchandise the customers possess based on the possession specifiers;~~

~~to receive identify unwanted merchandise specifiers, each specifying a merchandise any of said customers does not need to possess want any more, based upon the first through fifth kind specifiers and transmitted from the customer of concern via the network;~~

~~to update at least one of the first records concerned with the unwanted merchandise specifiers;~~

~~to consolidate records concerned with unwanted merchandise, based upon the unwanted merchandise specifiers by attribute; and~~

~~to present a result of the consolidating process to potential buyers.~~

27. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A system selling merchandise possessed by customers who communicate with said system via client computers via a network, comprising:

at least one server computer,

~~receiving possession specifiers from the customers via the network, each possession specifier specifying merchandise possession information of customers in relation to merchandise by including~~

a first kind specifier, each specifying a first merchandise the customer possesses,

a second kind specifier, each specifying a second merchandise the customer does not possess,

a third kind specifier, each specifying a third merchandise the customer has already purchased,

a fourth kind specifier, each specifying a fourth merchandise the customer does not need to possess any more but the customer still possesses,

a fifth kind specifier, each specifying a fifth merchandise the customer does not need to possess that the customer has purchased, that identify possessed merchandise held by the customers, maintaining first records concerning the possessed merchandise based on the possession specifiers, receiving from any of the customers via the network

identifying unwanted merchandise specifiers identifying unwanted merchandise the customers do not want any more, based upon the first through fifth kind specifiers, updating at least one of the first records concerned with the unwanted merchandise specifiers, and

presenting consolidated second records, produced by consolidation of the unwanted merchandise to potential buyers.

28. (WITHDRAWN) A selling-range constituting product management method for managing a selling-range of available products and possessed products of a customer in an interrelated manner, comprising:

receiving a possession specifier specifying a possessed product of the customer, transmitted from the customer via a network;

maintaining a record concerning the possessed product based on the possession specifier;

receiving an unwanted product specifier specifying an unwanted product the customer does not need to possess any more and transmitted from the customer via the network;

removing, when the customer does not need to possess any more, the specifier specifying a relevant product being possessed by the customer;

receiving an abandonment specifier specifying an abandoned product the customer abandoned which the customer possessed or purchased by a time of abandonment; and

maintaining a record concerning the abandoned product.

29. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A selling-range constituting merchandise management method for managing a selling-range of available merchandise and possessed merchandise in possession of a customer in an interrelated manner, comprising:

receiving a possession specifier, each specifying a possessed merchandise of the customer, merchandise possession information of a customer in relation to merchandise, transmitted from the customer via a network, each possession specifier including

a first kind specifier, each specifying a first merchandise the customer possesses,

a second kind specifier, each specifying a second merchandise the customer does not possess,

a third kind specifier, each specifying a third merchandise the customer has already purchased,

a fourth kind specifier, each specifying a fourth merchandise the customer does not need to possess any more but the customer still possesses,

a fifth kind specifier, each specifying a fifth merchandise the customer does not need to possess that the customer has purchased;

maintaining a record concerning the possessed merchandise based on the possession specifier;

determining, when receiving a purchase order for an identified merchandise transmitted from the customer via the network, whether the identified merchandise is in possession of the customer based on the record concerning the possessed merchandise; and

transmitting a result of said determining to the customer when determining that the customer possesses the merchandise stated in the purchase order.

30. (WITHDRAWN) A selling-range constituting product management method for managing a selling-range of available products and possessed products in possession of a customer in an interrelated manner, comprising:

receiving a possession specifier specifying a first product possessed by a customer, transmitted from the customer via a network;

maintaining a first record concerning the first product based on the possession specifier;

receiving an experienced-product specifier, identifying a second product the customer has used, but does not possess, transmitted from the customer via the network; and

maintaining a second record concerning the second product based on the experienced-product specifier.

31. (currently amended) A selling-range constituting merchandise management method for managing a selling-range of available merchandise and possessed merchandise of a

customer in an interrelated manner, comprising:

receiving specifiers of various kinds transmitted from a customer, ~~the kinds of specifiers consisting of comprising~~

~~the specifiers of a first kind specifier~~, each specifying a first merchandise the customer possesses,

~~the specifiers of a second kind specifier~~, each specifying a second merchandise the customer does not possess,

~~the specifiers of a third kind specifier~~, each specifying a third merchandise the customer has already purchased,

~~the specifiers of a fourth kind specifier~~, each specifying a fourth merchandise the customer does not need to possess any more ~~that~~but the customer still possesses, and

~~the specifiers of a fifth kind specifier~~, each specifying a fifth merchandise the customer does not need to possess that the customer has purchased;

maintaining, based on the ~~specifiers of the first through fifth kinds of specifiers~~, first through fifth record types, concerning the first through fifth merchandise, respectively; and

removing identified merchandise from a selling-range of merchandise offered to the customer based on the first and third through fifth record types when offering the selling-range of merchandise to the customer.

32. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A selling-range constituting merchandise management method for managing a selling-range of available merchandise and possessed by a plurality of customers respectively in an interrelated manner, comprising:

receiving possession specifiers, each specifying ~~a possessed merchandise that one of the customers possesses~~merchandise possession information of customers in relation to merchandise, transmitted from the customers via a network, each possession specifier including

a first kind specifier, each specifying a first merchandise the customer possesses,

a second kind specifier, each specifying a second merchandise the customer does not possess,

a third kind specifier, each specifying a third merchandise the customer has already purchased,

a fourth kind specifier, each specifying a fourth merchandise the customer does not need to possess any more but the customer still possesses,

a fifth kind specifier, each specifying a fifth merchandise the customer does not

need to possess that the customer has purchased;

~~maintaining first records, each concerning the possessed merchandise the one of the customers possesses based on the possession specifiers;~~

~~receiving identifying unwanted merchandise specifiers, each specifying an unwanted merchandise any of said customers does not need to possess any more, transmitted from the customers via the network based upon the first through fifth kind specifiers;~~

~~updating at least one of the first records concerned with received unwanted merchandise specifiers;~~

consolidating second records concerned with unwanted merchandise, based upon the unwanted merchandise specifiers; and

presenting a result of the consolidating process to potential buyers.

33. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of selling unwanted merchandise possessed by users, comprising:

~~storing records in a database for a plurality of users, each related to a merchandise possessed by an owner merchandise possession information of a user in relation to merchandise, based on information about the merchandise received via a network and indicating whether the owner wants to retain the merchandise the possession specifiers including~~

a first kind specifier, each specifying a first merchandise the user possesses,
a second kind specifier, each specifying a second merchandise the user does not possess,

a third kind specifier, each specifying a third merchandise the user has already purchased,

a fourth kind specifier, each specifying a fourth merchandise the user does not need to possess any more but the user still possesses,

a fifth kind specifier, each specifying a fifth merchandise the user does not need to possess that the user has purchased;

~~consolidating selected records for unwanted merchandise, including related unwanted merchandise from different owners users, based upon the first through fifth kind specifiers and updating the selected records; and~~

presenting a result of said consolidating to potential buyers.

34. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method as recited in claim 33, further comprising responding to a request from an ordering user for a requested merchandise with a report on an amount of the requested merchandise possessed by the user when the records stored in the database indicate that the ordering user possesses the requested merchandise.